

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-30 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling interlock of an interactive service with data broadcasting, executed by a broadcasting server, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

acquiring information ~~for~~ specifying an interactive service associated with data broadcasting and information ~~for~~ specifying a service time of said interactive service;

transmitting said information ~~for~~ specifying said interactive service and said information ~~for~~ specifying said service time, which are acquired in said acquiring ~~step~~, to a ~~computer~~ an interactive server, which is independent from said broadcasting server, and which executes an application that provides ~~for providing~~ said interactive service to a broadcasting receiver.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said acquiring ~~step~~ includes a ~~step of~~ extracting said information ~~for~~ specifying said interactive service and said information ~~for~~ specifying said service time from interactive service organization information.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said acquiring ~~step~~ further includes a ~~step of~~ extracting second information ~~for~~ specifying said interactive service from content information of said data broadcasting and comparing the second extracted information with said information ~~for~~ specifying said interactive service extracted from said interactive service organization information.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein in said transmitting ~~step~~, said information ~~for~~ specifying said interactive service and said information ~~for~~ specifying said service time, together with content information of said data broadcasting, are distributed to said interactive server computer ~~for providing said interactive service~~.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a ~~step of~~ generating information as to whether each interactive service must be activated at present based on said information ~~for~~ specifying said service time of each said interactive service, and

wherein in said transmitting ~~step~~, said information as to whether each said interactive service must be activated at present is further transmitted.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a ~~step of~~, if information indicating an operating state of said interactive service is received from said interactive server computer ~~for providing said interactive service~~, deleting or invalidating designation of an inactive interactive service in content information of said data broadcasting.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling interlock of an interactive service with data broadcasting in ~~a computer~~ an interactive server ~~for carrying out that provides~~ said interactive service associated with said data broadcasting to a broadcasting receiver, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

receiving a set of information ~~for~~ specifying an interactive service and information ~~for~~ specifying a service time of said interactive service from a broadcasting server computer in one or a plurality of broadcasting stations, wherein said broadcasting server is managed independently from said interactive server;

extracting a set of information ~~for~~ specifying interactive service having a relation to said interactive server computer ~~for carrying out said interactive service~~ and information ~~for~~ specifying service time of that interactive service by using the received information ~~for~~ specifying said interactive service; and

controlling activation and deactivation of each said interactive service based on said extracted set of said information ~~for~~ specifying said interactive service and said information ~~for~~ specifying said service time of that interactive service.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 7, wherein in said ~~step of~~ controlling said activation and deactivation, if it is judged that a service start time has arrived

based on said information ~~for~~ specifying said service time, a flag of the corresponding interactive service is set ON,

if it is judged that a service termination time has arrived based on said information ~~for~~ specifying said service time, a flag of the corresponding interactive service is set OFF, and

an interactive service is activated or deactivated based on said flag of said interactive service.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 7, further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

acquiring information indicating an operating state of said interactive service; and

transmitting said information indicating said operating state of said interactive service to a broadcasting server ~~computer~~ associated with said data broadcasting.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein said acquiring ~~step~~ includes ~~a step of~~ specifying that the interactive service is active in a case where a response indicating that the interactive service is active is received from the interactive service.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A program embodied on a medium, for causing a computer to control interlock of an interactive service with data broadcasting, executed by a broadcasting server, said program comprising ~~the steps of:~~

acquiring information ~~for~~ specifying an interactive service associated with data broadcasting and information ~~for~~ specifying a service time of said interactive service:

transmitting said information ~~for~~ specifying said interactive service and said information ~~for~~ specifying said service time, which are acquired in said acquiring ~~step~~, to a computer ~~an interactive server, which is independent from said broadcasting server and which executes an application that provides for providing said interactive service to a broadcasting server.~~

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 11, wherein said

acquiring~~step~~ includes ~~a step of~~ extracting said information~~for specifying~~ said interactive service and said information~~for specifying~~ said service time from interactive service organization information.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 12, wherein said acquiring~~step~~ further includes ~~a step of~~ extracting second information~~for specifying~~ said interactive service from content information of said data broadcasting and comparing the second extracted information with said information~~for specifying~~ said interactive service extracted from said interactive service organization information.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 11, wherein in said transmitting~~step~~, said information~~for specifying~~ said interactive service and said information~~for specifying~~ said service time, together with content information of said data broadcasting, are distributed to said interactive server~~computer for providing interactive service~~.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 11, further comprising ~~a step of~~ generating information as to whether each interactive service must be activated at present based on said information~~for specifying~~ said service time of each said interactive service, and

wherein in said transmitting~~step~~, said information as to whether each said interactive service must be activated at present is further transmitted.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 11, further comprising ~~a step of~~, if information indicating an operating state of said interactive service is received from said ~~computer for providing said interactive service~~ interactive server, deleting or invalidating designation of an inactive interactive service in content information of said data broadcasting.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A program embodied on a medium, for causing ~~a computer~~ an interactive server ~~for carrying out that provides~~ an interactive service associated with data broadcasting to control interlock of the interactive service with said data broadcasting to a broadcasting receiver, said program comprising ~~the steps of~~:

receiving a set of information ~~for specifying an interactive service and~~
information ~~for specifying a service time of said interactive service from a computer~~ broadcasting
server in one or a plurality of broadcasting stations, wherein said broadcasting server is
managed independently from said interactive server;

extracting a set of information ~~for specifying interactive service having a relation~~
to said ~~computer for carrying out said interactive service~~ interactive server and information ~~for~~
specifying service time of that interactive service by using the received information ~~for~~
specifying said interactive service; and

controlling activation and deactivation each said interactive service based on said
extracted set of said information ~~for specifying said interactive service and said information for~~
specifying said service time of that interactive service.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 17, wherein in said
~~step of~~ controlling said activation and deactivation, if it is judged that a service start time has
arrived based on said information ~~for specifying said service time~~, a flag of the corresponding
interactive service is set ON,

if it is judged that a service termination time has arrived based on said
information ~~for specifying said service time~~, a flag of the corresponding interactive service is
set OFF, and

an interactive service is activated or deactivated based on said flag of said
interactive service.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 17, further comprising
~~the steps of~~:

acquiring information indicating an operating state of said interactive service;
and

transmitting said information indicating said operating state of said interactive
service to a ~~computer~~ broadcasting server associated with said data broadcasting.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 19, wherein said
~~acquiring step includes a step of~~ specifying that the interactive service is active in a case

where a response indicating that the interactive service is active is received from the interactive service.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for controlling interlock of an interactive service with data broadcasting, executed by a broadcasting server, comprising:

means for acquiring information-~~for~~ specifying an interactive service associated with data broadcasting and information-~~for~~ specifying a service time of said interactive service;

a transmitter-~~for transmitting~~ to transmit said information-~~for~~ specifying said interactive service and said information-~~for~~ specifying said service time, which are acquired by said means for acquiring, to a computer an interactive server, which is independent from said broadcasting server, and which executes an application that provides-~~for providing~~ said interactive service to a broadcasting receiver.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 21, wherein said means for acquiring includes means for extracting said information-~~for~~ specifying said interactive service and said information-~~for~~ specifying said service time from interactive service organization information.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 22, wherein said means for acquiring further includes means for extracting second information-~~for~~ specifying said interactive service from content information of said data broadcasting, and for comparing the second extracted information with said information-~~for~~ specifying said interactive service extracted from said interactive service organization information.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 21, wherein said transmitter distributes said information-~~for~~ specifying said interactive service and said information-~~for~~ specifying said service time, together with content information of said data broadcasting to said ~~computer for providing said interactive service~~ interactive server.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 21, further comprising a generator-~~for~~ generating information as to whether each interactive service must

be activated at present based on said information ~~for specifying~~ said service time of each said interactive service, and

wherein said transmitter further transmits said information as to whether each said interactive service must be activated at present.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 21, further comprising:

means for deleting or invalidating designation of an inactive interactive service in content information of said data broadcasting, if information indicating an operating state of said interactive service is received from said ~~computer for providing said interactive service~~ interactive server,

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A computer system~~ An interactive server for carrying out an interactive service associated with data broadcasting to a broadcasting receiver, comprising:

a receiver ~~for receiving~~ to receive a set of information ~~for specifying~~ an interactive service and information ~~for specifying~~ a service time of said interactive service from a ~~computer~~ broadcasting server in one or a plurality of broadcasting stations, wherein said broadcasting server is managed independently from said interactive server;

means for extracting a set of information ~~for specifying~~ interactive service having a relation to said ~~computer for carrying out said interactive service~~ interactive server and information ~~for specifying~~ service time of that interactive service by using the received information ~~for specifying~~ said interactive service; and

means for controlling activation and deactivation of each said interactive service based on said extracted set of said information ~~for specifying~~ said interactive service and said information ~~for specifying~~ said service time of that interactive service.

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~computer system~~ interactive server as set forth in claim 27, wherein if it is judged that a service start time has arrived based on said information for specifying said service time, said means for controlling said activation and deactivation sets a flag of the corresponding interactive service ON,

if it is judged that a service termination time has arrived based on said information-~~for~~ specifying said service time, said means for controlling said activation and deactivation sets a flag of the corresponding interactive service OFF, and

said means for controlling said activation and deactivation activates or deactivates the interactive service on the basis of said flag of said interactive service.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~computer system~~ interactive server as set forth in claim 27, further comprising:

means for acquiring information indicating an operating state of said interactive service; and

means for transmitting said information indicating said operating state of said interactive service to a ~~computer~~ broadcasting server associated with said data broadcasting.

30. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~computer system~~ interactive server as set forth in claim 29, wherein said means for acquiring comprises means for specifying that the interactive service is active in a case where a response indicating that the interactive service is active is received from the interactive service.